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CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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Newtown Rampage Fueled by Capitalist Ideas

Obama, Clinton, Bushes Killed Millions More

We join the grief felt by the parents of the 20 children murdered in Newtown, Connecticut, and by the families of the six school workers. It's unfortunate, however, that grief under capitalism is selectively expressed. Far less sympathy can be found for the families of children, overwhelmingly black and Latino, who are fatally shot routinely by the rulers' cops in cities across the United States.

Capitalist influences led to Adam Lanza's rampage. His "me-against-the-world" outlook was an extreme but revealing reflection of the profit system's inherent individualism and cutthroat competition. Capitalism is based on reaping profits at the expense of rival capitalists and on the backs of the losers' laid-off workers. When workers are confronted by the lethal problems caused by this system, the rulers tell them, "You have to look out for yourself." The bosses' greatest fear is that workers will discover the real solution: Uniting with our class sisters and brothers to collectively fight our oppressors.

When we, the working class, run society, collectivity will stamp out much of the anti-social pathology that periodically explodes in individuals like Adam Lanza. When communist ideas were prevalent in the Soviet Union in the 1930s, collectivity was taught almost from birth. Babies were given blocks too big and heavy for one of them to move or manipulate by themselves; block-stacking required a group of babies to work together. In school, marks were given not to individuals but to the class as a whole. As a result, more advanced students were induced to help their classmates improve.

During capitalism's Great Depression of the 1930s, tens of millions of workers were tossed onto the unemployment rolls because they were no longer useful in creating profits for their exploiters. But during the same period, the Soviet Union maintained full employment. Everyone was needed to help build a society to benefit the entire working class. Communists believe that everyone has the potential to contribute to society. A communist society will treat and overcome anti-social behavior through reeducation and any necessary treatment.

Adam Lanza was a creature of capitalism, from its rotten health care system to the war culture created by U.S. imperialists. In the aftermath of the Newtown massacre, well-meaning people are clamoring for reforms in mental health services and gun control. But capitalism cannot be pacified or disarmed. It depends on fascist violence for its very existence. (For an explanation of fascist violence, see letter on page 6.)

U.S. Presidents: Murderers-in-Chief

The same system that depicts Lanza as a monster makes heroes out of far deadlier mass murderers, including every U.S. president from Harry Truman to the Bushes, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. Each of them is responsible for killing millions of civilians, from the genocidal use of atomic weapons in Japan to the imperialist "surge" in Afghanistan and the "collateral" civilian victims of drone killings in Pakistan. In between, the U.S. rulers have slaughtered millions of innocents through their interventions in Guatemala, Chile, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam (more than two million civilians there alone).

Many more were murdered as a direct result of the U.S. rulers' installation of the fascist Shah in Iran, the CIA assassination of Patrice Lumumba in the Congo, and the U.S. backing of South African apartheid, a fascist system that led to the deaths of fifty percent of the children before they reached the age of five. The U.S. bosses helped murder a million people by supplying Saddam Hussein with weapons and intelligence in his war with Iran, and caused another million deaths in Iraq from two wars and eight years of Clinton sanctions that cut off food and medical supplies.

Within U.S. borders, racist cops execute scores of youth, majority black and Latino, who bear the brunt of this intensifying fascism. In 2010 alone, there were 91 unjustified cop shootings that killed the victim

The same system that depicts Lanza as a monster makes heroes out of far deadlier mass murderers, each of whom are responsible for killing millions of civilians.

(CATO Institute report in NY Daily News, 12/30).

Where the guilty U.S. rulers and their henchmen are concerned, there are no consequences for their lethal brutality. And it's no surprise that none of these mass slaughters have drawn any public displays of sympathy from the White House.

Meanwhile, beginning in the 1970s, U.S. officials initiated the wholesale elimination of mental health facilities. That's when U.S. imperialists' defeat in Vietnam and sharpening foreign economic competition first threatened the top-dog status that they'd enjoyed since World War II. Over the same period, Pentagon spending (in today's dollars) has doubled. The state psychiatric hospital in Lanza's Newtown, which once served up to 4,000 patients, was closed in 1995 as the imperialists tightened the workers' belts.

Lanza was diagnosed with autism, a disorder affecting the brain's development of social and communicative skills. The great majority of autistic people never hurt anyone. But Lanza's case showed that even the children of affluent families are denied

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

NRA, Liberals Fight Over Best Road to U.S. Fascism

continued from front page

adequate mental health care in a society whose rulers have other priorities.

Factional Fight Over Militarizing the U.S.

Different factions of U.S. capitalists have pounced on the murders in Newtown to push their competing views for militarizing the nation. Politicians and TV pundits, careful not to offend their ruling-class patrons, never denounce the alienating, dehumanizing, death-dealing profit system. Instead, they attack the scheme of one capitalist gang or another to mobilize the U.S. populace for war. The conservative, mainly Republican, National Rifle Association (NRA) blasted the liberal, mainly Democratic media for distributing the shoot-'em-up video games played by Lanza. The NRA then called for uniformed armed guards at the door of every school in the land, along with concealed guns for teachers and principals.

Liberals fired back with both barrels, ridiculing NRA mouthpiece Wayne LaPierre. The NRA's plan to put state-sponsored gunmen even in wealthy suburban schools is outrageous to the liberals, even though armed cops and metal detectors already "greet" working-class students each day in liberal-run cities like New York and Chicago. The liberals want their cannon fodder to be willing, not intimidated. This policy split recalls the divergent methods among the Nazis, who used both blunt terror (the Gestapo's ruthless fascist police) and calculated indoctrination (the Hitler Youth) to consolidate their hold on the German population.

The New York Times heaped hypocrisy on hypocrisy by attacking NRA-boosting gun manufacturers' ties to video games, where the gun-makers get generous product placement. "These troubling relationships expose the NRA's disingenuous [deceitful] strategy of blaming the media" (NYT, 12/27/12). But in defending the video media, the Times failed to disclose the industry's direct link to imperialist war-makers far bigger than Bushmaster or Colt.



'Call of Duty' Unites Bosses

Big Oil, the gun and video game industries, and the arms manufacturers are all inter-connected. "Call of Duty," reportedly Lanza's favorite interactive video game, comes from French conglomerate Vivendi's wholly owned U.S. subsidiary Activision. One Vivendi board member, Christophe de Margerie, serves as chairman of oil giant Total, whose billionaire shareholders profit mightily by his partnering with the U.S. killing machine. Total, which originally sided with Saddam Hussein, now controls oil fields throughout Iraq as a payoff for French troop contributions to the U.S.-led Afghan slaughter. Late last month, Vivendi's CEO, Jean-Bernard Lévy, became chairman of arms maker Thalès, tenth on the Pentagon's list of death merchant contractors.

The liberal Times speaks for a U.S. faction planning for ultimate all-out global war. It sees violent video games as a means for recruiting "middle-class" youth who aren't yet reached by today's economic draft. The latest installment of "Call of Duty," so beloved by both Lanza and the Times, envisions a World War III against Russia a decade away and features a "USS Obama" aircraft carrier.

It's not such a big leap from games like "Call of Duty" to the real-life massacres planned by U.S. rulers. GE boasts that its "IPS5100 [weapons/vision system] can be used in armored vehicles to give troops 360° situational awareness with the help of panoramic imagery that can be manipulated by touch screen, joystick and game-style controller" (Business Insider, 3/13/12). The video games' usefulness in pre-training potential U.S. soldiers underlies the Times' "don't-blame-the-games" stance.

Communists + Class Struggle = Revolution Against Capitalism

Overthrowing the intensifying fascism of the capitalists who enabled Newtown will require a supreme collective effort by a communist-led working class. The seeds of this struggle can be seen in the growing class struggles worldwide. Masses of women (and men) are marching against fascist anti-women violence in India. Garment workers are staging militant protests against profiteering murderers in Bangladesh. Anti-austerity demonstrators are on the march in Pakistan, France, Haiti, Spain, Egypt and Portugal. Miners are armed for class war in South Africa. In the U.S., battles continue to rage against racist cop killings in New York City and Los Angeles and union-busting in Wisconsin and Ohio.

As the Progressive Labor Party's influence and leadership grows in the two dozen countries where communist clubs have been established, our ideas will win masses of workers to understand that this vicious capitalist system can't be reformed. Destroying it and building a new society — run by and for our class, which produces everything of value — must become the order of the day. Join PLP!✪

OUR FIGHT

✯**Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.**

✯**Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.**

✯**Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.**

✯**While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.**

✯**Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.**

✯**Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.**

✯**Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.**

✯**Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.**

✯**Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.**

✯**Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!**

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Why Articles Are Not Signed

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual. While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

Myth of the 'Middle Class'

Obama, alongside his political buddies and the bosses' media, constantly invoke the mythological "middle class" while never mentioning the working class. They are trying to convince workers who earn — or who aspire to earn — $50,000 or $75,000 a year that they are not workers. They want to hide the reality of a working class with its antagonistic relationship with an opposing, parasitic ruling class. The latter controls the means of production and reaps profits from exploiting worker's labor power, the source of all value. Capitalists own; workers create.

Many workers' struggles may have won incomes that enable them to afford a home, a car and a college education for their children, but they have no security under capitalism. Come the next crisis of overproduction and the next wave of mass unemployment, these higher-earning workers promptly get laid off and made homeless. Their "middle-class" life goes up in smoke. One's class is not determined by income, but rather by the source of that income.

Rich Bosses' Racist Cuts Hit Patients' Health, Workers' Jobs



BROOKLYN, NY, December 31 — Downstate Medical Center here, whose patients come from an underserved predominantly Caribbean working-class community, is threatened with closing, or privatization or both. Workers at the hospital, which belongs to New York State, are in the fight of their lives. We are living in times when the major imperialists who run this country need to divert money from health care and other human services to spend trillions on their fight with other imperialists over world domination.

The threat to Downstate comes against a background of other hospital closings and forced mergers. Brooklyn's Interfaith hospital was forced into bankruptcy just last month and will be closed. At Downstate, Gov. Cuomo, who is also planning huge Medicare and Medicaid cuts, hired John Williams as the new President of Downstate. Williams and his allies already have a long history of gutting healthcare and closing or privatizing hospitals.

At George Washington University in D.C.,where Williams made his reputation, he was made Vice President in charge of the medical school and hospital because the Trustees liked the way he had helped sell 80% of the hospital to for-profit Universal Health Services. He did such a good job, he was able to collect salaries from both GWU and Universal — until they found out! To balance the medical center's budget, which had been losing millions each year, Williams closed five suburban clinics and the HMO. He also sold off the faculty practice plan and laid off 500 staff members and 50 doctors. Now Cuomo wants him to do the same here, and is paying him over $750,000 a year to do the hatchet job.

Many of us have worked at Downstate for years. We have worked through hiring freezes and pay lags when there were cutbacks. We have worked short-staffed, trying our best to meet the needs of our patients. We have fought for adequate staff. Depending on the state of the capitalist economy, things have been bad or worse. It has been no picnic for workers or patients in this state-run hospital.

Williams would redefine our medical center as a "clinical enterprise." His plans likely include some form of privatization, possibly a closure of Downstate. He threatens the latter if we workers and patients don't sacrifice. We must demand these cuts be rescinded, and that more government money be available for care of uninsured workers.

The bosses and their henchmen like Williams are trying to take back hard-won benefits from the remaining union workers by spreading the lie that we have it "so good." It is the height of hypocrisy when people like Williams and his other high-paid six-figure cronies try to paint regular state workers as greedy and lazy!

What kind of system makes the healthcare of the working class (especially the black, Latino and immigrant workers) secondary to profits? For our patients and our co-workers, we reject sacrificing for the capitalist system. Read CHALLENGE to learn of workers' struggles around the world against imperialism and for communism.✪

FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD
BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL PLP!
PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Fight-Back Thwarts Hospital Frame-up of Militant Retiree

BROOKLYN, NY, January 5 — Four months of struggle to fight false criminal charges against Ira Wechsler, a retired hospital worker active in the continuing struggle to fight cutbacks and the intended closing of Downstate Medical Center, have been rewarded with victory. On Dec. 4, the Brooklyn DA had to drop the charges, which were trumped up to try to split workers' unity against the cuts.

Ira, recently retired from Woodhull Medical Center, is a long-time District 1199 union member. The charges grew out of collusion between corrupt 1199 union officials and the bosses of the merged SUNY Downstate-Long Island College Hospital medical complex. They want to defeat the rank-and-file rebellion against their plans to destroy health care for predominantly black workers from the West Indies.

A mass rally in June, organized with little assistance from the three unions that represent the bulk of Downstate workers, sparked the rebellion by grounds workers, nurses, and technical workers. A determined rank-and-file leadership was able to move the workers to act in spite of misleadership from union officials.

The union misleaders called a rally in mid-July to try to take the initiative away from the rank-and-file. Ira spoke against the leadership at a Downstate workers' meeting. After leaving this rally, hospital police arrested Ira for "trespassing" as he walked to a bus stop. The move was driven solely by their desperate need to intimidate workers from fighting back.

Workers at Downstate collected over 200 signatures demanding the charges against Ira be dropped. At least 50 other signatures were collected at other Brooklyn healthcare facilities. Several hospital workers and friends attended the legal proceeding to make sure the courts knew of the solid support for their brother.

While this was a victory, it was not the end of the struggle. NY Governor Cuomo and his class henchman continue to plan cutbacks in health care for workers and in jobs for healthcare workers. Racism has been the cutting edge of these cutbacks in facilities and programs that serve mainly black and Latino working-class neighborhoods. But Cuomo plans to spread these cuts to the entire working class with Medicaid "redesign" engineered by Wall Street point man Steven Berger.

PLP members have been distributing hundreds of CHALLENGEs to Downstate workers every issue. We need to recruit hospital workers involved in this struggle and develop mass consciousness that capitalism, not just some "bad" bosses, is destroying workers' lives. This will lead to smashing the racist system that measures our lives in dollars and cents. Under communism, healthcare will be available to all. Only a revolution led by PLP can bring these changes.✪

Racist FEMA Treats Sandy Victims As Slaves



NEW YORK CITY, December 28 — Over 1,000 people left homeless by superstorm Sandy were moved into Manhattan hotels after spending a couple of weeks in various shelters. They were dumped at the door, often at fancy establishments, without money, food, clothes, healthcare, or means of transportation. With thousands of empty apartments and even more vacant luxury condos, the bosses would rather pay $300/night for a month than put families in permanent housing for a year.

These mostly black and Latino workers, who previously received some public assistance, now face eviction to homeless shelters. The racism and total human disregard with which they are being treated shows the true nature of U.S. capitalism.

At first, the evacuees resorted to begging food from stores while they asked the Red Cross and other agencies for help. Everyone rejected them until we demonstrated at the Red Cross headquarters. Then the 106 families we know got $100 per person/week food cards and Metro transit cards until December 18. On January 2, all food aid is due to expire, and those with food stamps can't use them in midtown because their stamps are not accepted at most stores. The hotels removed refrigerators and microwaves from the rooms, so there is no way to store or re-heat food or keep medications like insulin.

There is no "recovery center" in Manhattan where various agencies help survivors. No sources of health care other than Emergency Rooms were ever identified; no centers of food or clothing donations were set up to help these families. The first, very limited Federal Emegerncy Management Agency (FEMA) office opened here mostly aimed at helping small businesses.

Families have sought help from various local politicians, agencies and news outlets. All of them express their sympathy or momentary interest, take campaign photos of themselves helping victims, and then do nothing. A small group of evacuees, trade unionists, and members and friends of Progressive Labor Party has formed, trying to build ties with families as they fight back.

A week ago, hotels began to evict some families onto the street, even though FEMA is supposed to house them until at least January 12. Fifteen families were evicted from the Beekman hotel when their FEMA paperwork was a few hours late. A single mother with five children was evicted on December 27 and sent to a homeless shelter. Other families with young children were facing eviction New Year's weekend, to make room for celebrators. Although NYC promised case managers several weeks ago, none has materialized. Those who were previously subsidized renters have received no guidance obtaining aid to rent again.

Our group held a rally at the new local FEMA office. After leafleting outside, we walked boldly into the FEMA office. Although threatened with arrest, we stood our ground and demanded answers. The staff simply said over and over again that FEMA would only offer individual assistance about housing, and refused to acknowledge any responsibility for enforcing their own hotel policy.

One family did go in for individual help and was taken into a back room for 30 minutes. When they emerged, they said all they had been told was to call the FEMA phone number! When you call the FEMA number, you are told to go to a FEMA office.

The Sandy survivors understand the treachery of politicians and the government; but they do not yet see the need to overthrow this system to create a communist world where workers' needs, not profits, are the order of the day. We will continue to fight the bosses and their lackeys at these workers' side, which can lead to recruitment of some more fighters for PLP and to destroying capitalism.✪

Black, White Workers Blast Conrail, Pols over Toxic Gas Spill

PAULSBORO, NEW JERSEY, December 28 — From a garment factory in Bangladesh to a chemical spill here, capitalism's murderous worldwide reach shows that the working class must put this profit-hungry beast down with communist revolution. Few Paulsboro residents were thinking about the need for communist revolution however on November 30 when a railroad tanker filled with vinyl chloride derailed and crashed into the Mantua Creek. It released a cloud of this toxic gas into the community.

The derailment was caused when the bridge failed to close properly. Parts of the bridge date from 1873. A few years ago, Conrail replaced the worker who operated the bridge with an electronic system to save the company about $100,000 a year. The electronic system failed so often that Conrail dispatchers and engineers routinely ignored the system's red lights and drove trains across the bridge if it "looked okay."

Many of the working-class residents of Paulsboro were exposed to this gas. The most intense exposure was in an area of the town populated by poor black and white workers. This area was evacuated several hours after the exposure. Seventy people were treated in the Underwood Hospital Emergency Room for respiratory problems, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and headaches.

Approximately 700 workers were evacuated from the neighborhoods closest to the accident. They were sent to motels in the surrounding areas. Conrail set up a family assistance center at a hall in the neighboring town of Gibbstown. Residents who were not evacuated were told to "shelter in place," meaning stay in their houses and keep windows and doors closed.

Two weeks after this accident, there are still two tankers filled with vinyl chloride and one filled with ethanol sitting in the Mantua Creek and none of the capitalist experts can figure out how to get them out safely.

There have been two public meetings since the accident and they have both been angry affairs. Paulsboro workers have blasted Conrail and the flunkey Paulsboro politicians for their handling of the emergency. In 2009, a coal train derailed on this same bridge and it was not adequately repaired. There was never an investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board. The evacuees complained of shabby treatment by Conrail's support team.

So maybe most Paulsboro folks were not thinking about the need for communist revolution before November 30. But after the chemical spill, they are now planning to form a committee to fight the deadly negligence of the Conrail bosses. This can prove to be fertile soil for PLP's communist ideas, a "chemical spill" poisonous to all bosses.✪

Rebuild Bedouin Homes After Israel's 42nd Demolition

AL-ARAKIB, ISRAEL-PALESTINE, December 15 — Several local and international working-class activists, including a PL'er, visited the "unrecognized" Bedouin village of al-Arakib and helped rebuild its demolished shacks and sheds. On Tuesday, the racist Israeli authorities demolished the village for the 42nd time since the summer of 2010! Israel likes to showcase itself as "the only democracy in the Middle East." But this "democracy" demolishes the homes of impoverished Bedouin workers and subsistence peasants because they are in the way of the real-estate capitalists' steamroller.

In front of this criminal bosses' state and its terrorist police, the villagers of al-Araqib fight back and stick to their ancestral land. They will not move, as the regime wants, to the nearby mis-planned Bedouin town of Rahat, where there are no jobs. The village's leader, Sheikh Sayakh, once again thanked the Jewish, Arab and international working-class activists who come to help the villagers in their struggle.

The Zionist movement, the "Jewish" colonial nationalists, and the State of Israel it created 64 years ago try to "bring order" to the Bedouin settlements in the Negev (southern Israel-Palestine). This "order" means robbing the Palestinian-Bedouin worker or peasant of his ancestral land, which is his main source of livelihood, in order to let U.S.-based real-estate tycoons such as Ronald Lauder and Inving Moscowitz grow rich from land-theft. The Bedouins, who are, officially, Israeli citizens, are treated as second-class citizens and face racism. Many Bedouins serve in the Border Patrol with the hope of getting decent jobs afterwards, yet at the end of the day are still treated as nothing by these racists. This is the same way the racist U.S. treats Native American, Latino and black workers.

Racist, capitalist Israeli state is at war with Arab, Bedouin, and Jewish workers.

But we Jewish and Arab workers and activists came to al-Araqib in private cars (as Israel lacks public transit on weekends) and helped re-build five shacks. The message should be brought to all corners of the world: the racist, capitalist Israeli state is at war with Arab workers, including the Bedouins, as well as with Jewish workers. The basis of Zionism is racist land robbery. But we, workers of all ethnicities, "races" and creeds, are determined to stand firm with the villagers of al-Araqib in their just struggle.✪

Israel-Palestine

'People's Court' Slams Rulers' Rotten Public Housing

BAT-YAM, ISRAEL-PALESTINE — Recently, hundreds of anti-capitalist activists gathered in the municipal museum here to hold a "People's Court" over Israel's rotten public-housing system, which included scores of testimonies of its working-class victims. Two PL'ers joined this event to show solidarity with the victims and support for their struggle. This lousy system can't provide even a minimal roof over the heads of thousands of workers.

This "court," of course, being a workers' convention while the bosses still hold state power, lacks any real authority to try our class enemies. But exposing the bitter truth about the public housing system is an essential step on the road to organizing a mass struggle against capitalism's crimes. And the day will come when the working class will seize its destiny — and state power — and will be able to truly judge and punish its exploiters.

Israeli Sexist Laws 'House' Workers in Tents

The absurdity in capitalist "public housing" was exposed from the first court testimony. Esther, a single mother suffering from cirrhosis and living in a tent with her son, can't afford housing in the "free market." A public housing official told her to "have two or three more children!" Why? Because Israel's rotten capitalist law allows public housing for single mothers only if they have three or more children. Esther wishes Prime Minister Netanyahu and Finance Minister Shteinitz could live in a tent even for one day rather than in their fancy mansions.

Orit, a single mother working very hard to support herself and her son, suffers from the "rent support" policy enacted by Israeli rulers as a cheap replacement for true public housing. She receives about $450 a month as "aid." This doesn't even cover her rent. She suffers under a minimum wage while her boss reaps all the profits.

The children of Amal, an Arab worker from Ramla-Lod (near Tel-Aviv) were thrown on the street due to home foreclosure. Her wages can't provide adequate food for her seven children, but the officials claim she "does not meet the criteria" for public housing. The authorities have set her former husband against her as an act of divide and conquer.

In most cases, the public housing residents earn only a minimum wage (about $1,200 a month). They are forced to renew their public housing eligibility every two years, paying a fee of roughly $120. Inspectors are sent to their homes to check eligibility, but due to the inspectors' many mistakes, residents are forced to pay fines which end up in the pockets of the capitalist state.

Welfare can't pay for an apartment even with state "rent aid." Sick or disabled workers don't receive adequate aid. Housing officials mock the residents and unleash the cops on them if they dare complain. There are allegations that officials will provide or improve housing for women workers in exchange for sexual bribes. The public housing companies charge mobster-style interest rates for late payments. They threaten and attack the lives of many men and women. They withhold budgets and let apartments rot. They force illiterate residents to sign contracts they can't read. They don't allow the impoverished children of public housing residents to continue to live in their parents' apartments, while well-off Kibbutz kids can easily retain their parents' many privileges.

The Israeli State Comptroller reports (October 2009) that 700 public housing apartments stand empty but are unsuitable for human habitation due to neglect. The Finance Ministry claims that if all workers had apartments, the state would "go bankrupt like Greece or Spain." This capitalist world-view is used to justify political repression.

> ***The Finance Ministry claims that if all workers had apartments, the state would "go bankrupt like Greece or Spain." This capitalist world-view is used to justify political repression.***

Housing for the Rich

Meanwhile, the bosses and their servants live the rich life. A tycoon can rent land cheaply from the state — in Israel the state owns 93% of all lands). The Kibbutzim, bastions of Zionist capitalism (formerly under a "socialist" mask and now almost openly capitalist), received many lands free from the state for agricultural use, but now build mansions on these state lands for well-off people. And the government turns a blind eye.

The Amigur public housing company, controlled by the Jewish (Zionist) Agency (JAFI), is actually run by remote control by the Agency's rich donors, who live in the U.S. These "donors" are nothing but speculators who use public housing apartments in Israel as profitable cash-cows. The apartments were sold not to the residents for a fair price, as the law claims to guarantee, but to various capitalist interests to line the pockets of wealthy U.S. investors.

One PL'er works with the Public Housing Team of the Tarabut movement. She has helped to resist evictions. Seeing all these residents and public housing victims fighting together has been very emotional for her.

Uniting Against the Class Enemy

This "court" numbers a large population of workers and unemployed with many problems: people with health problems; disabled workers; both secular and religious workers; a former drug addict; Jews and Arabs standing together to fight the oppressive capitalist swine. The latter use divide-and-conquer tactics, but that won't help them this time. We, the workers, are beginning to unite against our class enemy.

Capitalism is a system which cannot guarantee decent housing for billions of workers worldwide. Such a system must be dumped in the trash heap of history. When the working class unites to destroy the capitalist state and erect a workers' communist state, our resources could be managed fairly and democratically, guaranteeing everyone decent housing, food, healthcare and education at a quality befitting free human beings.

Join the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party. We are fighting for a world without exploitation, oppression and capitalists who grow rich from the work of others!✪

SPAIN: PROTESTS HALT EVICTION

Jobless Workers Scour Dumpsters for Food, Scraps

The international economic depression caused by the internal contradictions of the capitalist system has hit Spain particularly hard. Unemployment in that country has reached 25%; 22% of Spanish households live under the poverty line and an additional 30% are living on the edge of poverty (NYT, 10/26; MercoPress, 2/24).

The growing poverty has led to a rapid increase in homelessness and stressed the traditional aid to the poor networks run by the Catholic Church. Julio Beamonte, the director of Spain's largest Catholic charity Caritas, commented in June that poverty in Spain now rivals the poverty that Europe experienced in the aftermath and rubble of World War II (Catholic News Agency, 6/6).

A secretary for Caritas summed up the situation, "There are more poor people than last year, and they are poorer. After four years of financial hardship, poverty is more widespread, more intense and it is creating a polarized society in which the difference between rich and poor is growing" (MercoPress).

A recent report on National Public Radio's (NPR) *All Things Considered* discussed the new mass phenomenon of "dumpster diving" in Spanish cities. This practice, common in the United States, involves the mining of urban waste sites (dumpster, trashcans, and dumps) for food and sellable goods, particularly metals that can be sold as scrap. One such dumpster diver told the reporter, "I used to build new houses, do renovations and refurbish old historic homes." Now he digs in the trash for food.

A Moroccan immigrant searching dumpsters in Barcelona told the reporter, "Now it seems so much of humanity is without work or anything. So this is better than robbery, you know? Collecting scrap metal. You can even jump down into the dumpster, no problem." He then went head first into the dumpster with a friend holding his feet (NPR, 11/11).

In the midst of this growing poverty the capitalist class is finding new ways to profit from this poverty. Restaurants in Spain have begun to offer to reheat cash-strapped workers' food while renting them cutlery and plates (Reuters blog, 9/24). After noting that "poverty is returning to Europe" British mega-company Unilever has shifted its business strategy in Europe to profit from the world's poorest countries. They now offer consumers laundry detergent in five-wash packets, shampoo in individual packs, and single-serving packs of foods like mashed potatoes (Telegraph, 8/27). These individual portions are more wasteful and more expensive in the long run, but are all that workers living on the edge of poverty can afford.

Workers in Spain are not content to simply bear the crisis on their backs. Mass street protests have forced Spanish rulers to pass a new two-year moratorium on evictions of poor families who can't pay their mortgage. Yet the temporary nature of these reforms was immediately apparent. As Business Week notes, this moratorium is no gift to the working class: "Spain is trying to balance the threat of social unrest with protecting banks." Deutsche Bank goon Bernd Volk re-assured, "It [the moratorium] seems clearly meant for extreme cases and is supposed to not overly dilute the rights of the banks" (BW, 11/16).

The new Spanish law demonstrates both the importance of active resistance and the limits of reform under capitalism. These workers have won a temporary victory in housing through struggle in the streets, but it will take the destruction of the capitalist system in order to fully and permanently meet the needs of the working class.

This growing extreme poverty is prevalent not only in Spain, but also around the world. The imperialist countries may disagree over some issues like how to divide the spoils of empire, but they are united in their belief that the working class should shoulder 100% of the burden of the current capitalist crisis.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Push Fight for Communism, Map Future Struggles

At the end of our PLP college club meeting we felt that we had taken another step forward. Our club is where we plan and evaluate our battles, both ideological and material, against capitalism. Internationalism is very much present in our club body and politics.

Not only are we from all parts of the world, but the nature of our work crosses all borders. Our involvement includes an immigrant youth group, Haitian Student Association group and a police brutality struggle.

After a bowl of chili and chips, we began with the editorial "Gaza Carnage Prelude to U.S.-Israeli War on Iran?" in the last issue of CHALLENGE. Present were our two newest PL'ers who joined at our last study group: Ann and Jack. One brought a friend "to check it out." There wasn't much discussion about the editorial. Instead, our newest PL'ers were primarily concerned with one thing: How do we get people to be active in the fight for communism?

Before we could address that, we discussed the state of the working class. "Here, people accept the status quo. People aren't rising up. Occupy is done," said Jack. Though our new members are passionate about change, at times they lack confidence in the working class.

Much of the cynicism stems from the defeat of the old communist movement. Restoration of capitalism in Russia and China has set back the revolutionary process. But learning from our revolutionary history gives us more reason to fight harder for communism today.

Everywhere workers are fighting back. Just last week, Walmart and fast food workers went on strike in the U.S. "What did we get out of Occupy? We got you," responded a veteran comrade.

Last month, three PL'ers went to join our comrades in Haiti on a teachers strike, in the battle against racist killer kkkops, and for a student conference. Our comrades in Haiti serve as a beacon of inspiration in their militancy and commitment to building for a communist revolution.

Lessons these three comrades learned are helping the whole club become better fighters. There is a saying in PLP, "an attack on one worker is an attack on all workers." Likewise, when fightbacks and the Party are strengthening in one area, it fuels other areas, strengthening the Party as whole. A win for workers in Haiti is a win for workers all over the world.

Interestingly, the questions asked today at our club meeting were the same ones asked at our youth conference in Haiti — What's the plan? What should we do to fight against imperialism? How do we mobilize masses of people for communism?

The solution and plan is the same worldwide. We have a powerful set of tools. First are our political ideas and the Party. We have a mass strategy of building serious lifelong political friendships with workers, students, and soldiers. We have CHALLENGE! We have our principles of constant criticism and self-criticism to guide our process forward. What keeps us going? Confidence in and love for our class and our understanding of the everyday disaster of capitalism.

We understand the fight for communism is difficult and protracted. The revolution isn't around the corner. There may well be bloody, long imperialist war that we will struggle to transform into worldwide class war and revolution.

On that note, we discussed our upcoming plans — a vigil for the six-month anniversary of the kkkilling of Shantel Davis, a communist school, a conference against imperialism, and May Day! Our newest comrades can spread PLP struggle into two more college campuses. There is so much potential, and so much to be done!

Young Red

Marxist Prof Exposes Tea Party Red-baiters

Representatives of "conservative," "Libertarian" and "liberal" politics aired their differing views at a debate on the campus of Montclair State University (MSU).

The debate was scheduled and paid for by Young Americans for Liberty (YAL), a right-wing, pro-capitalist student group with headquarters in Washington, DC and a big budget from conservative corporate foundations. The MSU YAL chapter wanted English Professor Grover Furr to represent the "liberal" viewpoint. They knew that Furr is a Marxist, not a "liberal," but wanted him because he is an unofficial advisor to the MSU Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) chapter.

At the debate, a representative of the right-wing "Tea Party" asked Furr: "Stalin killed 40-60 million people. Wasn't that enough?"

Furr replied: "That's bullsh*t! That's not true." He said that he had done research on this topic for many years and has "yet to discover one crime that Stalin committed." Furr concluded this remark by saying that U.S. history is certainly falsified, but that the history of the Soviet Union is the most falsified of all.

Since then Furr has received death threats and lots of harassing junk mail. Right-wing lawyers have repeatedly emailed the president of MSU and the chair of the English department, Furr's immediate superior, to demand that he be fired.

Anti-communists have posted phony "evaluations" on Ratemyprofessor.com claiming that Furr teaches nothing but Stalin in his classes. The right-wingers then claim that Furr is misusing his classrooms to "indoctrinate" his students.

All this is a lie. Moreover, it exposes this fact: The anti-communists have no evidence whatsoever to support their claims that Stalin killed millions, or even one person! They just don't like anyone to tell the truth about the USSR during Stalin's time.

The harassment and hate mail continue, but not everyone is resistant to a communist message. Furr has also received some positive emails, thanking him for daring to tell the truth. The MSU chapter of SDS has invited Furr to speak to them twice since then. PLP'ers have circulated CHALLENGE to many of them. Several have expressed interest in a study group. When communists are attacked by adherents of the bosses' ideas, our friends have the opportunity to take a stand and take the next step in learning more of the truth about revolutionary ideas.

Red Researcher

Benghazi Debate Lies

The big media debate over whether the anti-Muslim video or a planned al Qaeda mission was responsible for the incident at the U.S. embassy in Benghazi is designed to obscure the role of U.S. imperialism.

Decades of anti-Muslim oppression in the oil-rich Mideast from invasions, occupations, military support of dictators and Israeli genocide against Palestinians in addition to slaughter from U.S. drone bombings are the real reasons why an anti-Muslim video triggered anti-U.S. demonstrations. They occurred in 30 other countries at the same time as Libya. Libya is ruled by armed militias who joined their anti-U.S. demonstrators when attacked by embassy forces.

The Benghazi incident has been reclassified as a premeditated al Qaeda terrorist attack to hide the real terrorists: U.S. imperialism.

Anti-Imperialist

U.S. Capitalism's Violent Culture

The cause of the Newton, Connecticut massacre will not appear in the capitalist-controlled media because the rulers need to blame the mentally ill and guns for the proliferation of a violent U.S. culture. That culture was created by capitalists to make it easier to extract bloody profits from people through terror, racism, exploitation and war.

With the world's biggest, racist prison population, fascist stop-and-frisk police terror against hundreds of thousands of black and Latino youth and the increase of violent TV, movies and video games, U.S. rulers are preparing workers and teenagers for a culture of racism and violence against people. The Newtown shooter Adam Lanza's sixth-grade teacher said he talked about "blowing things up," but that it was just *typical* talk for boys his age. (New York Times, 12/15)

Forty-six percent live in poverty in the U.S., with more homeless and hungry children than any developed country worldwide. Daily suicides from the 30 million unemployed and underemployed workers, war veterans and students attest to the violence capitalism imposes on people it can no longer exploit or use as cannon fodder in its profit wars.

Martin Luther King was condemned in the media and by his peers when he denounced the Vietnam War's genocide and racism by saying the U.S. was the greatest purveyor of violence in the world. He was assassinated shortly after that.

The world's largest manufacturer and distributor of weapons of war is the U.S., accounting for the largest percentage of its Gross Domestic Product. U.S. imperialism is hated worldwide because workers rising up against capitalist oppression are met by jet fighters, drone bombers, tanks, land mines and millions of gas canisters labeled "Made in USA."

Millions of workers are being forced into poverty to pay for decades of invasions, occupations and endless wars that benefit the U.S. corporate empire. The bosses' profit system depends on workers accepting a future of violence, austerity and dying in imperialist wars. Workers need to smash that murderous system by organizing with PLP for communist revolution and a system without profits, run for and by the working class.

A Comrade

Lessons for Today: The Fascist Bureau of Investigation

continued from page 8

The CIA tracked antiwar leaders and black militants who traveled overseas, and reported back to the FBI. The FBI, in turn, shared thousands of selected files on Americans with army intelligence and the CIA. All three intelligence services sent the names of Americans to the National Security Agency for inclusion on a global watch list; the NSA relayed back to the FBI hundreds of transcripts of intercepted telephone calls to and from 'suspect' Americans."

So much for the "war" between the FBI and CIA. One example that these tactics did not end with the Church Committee Report is the fact that the FBI tracked Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Halberstam for more than two decades afterwards (Associated Press and Toronto Star, 11/7/2008). Halberstam, a NY Times writer had exposed many Pentagon lies about the Vietnam war.

Such are the lengths that the racist U.S. ruling class will go to counter domestic opposition to its fascist and war policies in order to maintain their top-dog position among their imperialist rivals. But one factor these capitalist butchers don't have on their side is millions of workers who suffer because of this surveillance state. These rulers may attack PLP and other militant pro-communist and anti-capitalist forces, but they cannot keep us from organizing to send them to their graves.✪

Massive Racist Unemployment = Super-profits for French Bosses

PARIS, December 31 — Official statistics show a staggering 5,242,000 unemployed or underemployed in France, or 18.5 percent of the working population (in a population one-sixth of the U.S.): 3,132,600 jobless, 1,484,600 part-timers who can't find full-time jobs and another 624,500 kept busy in training programs and government-funded make-work programs. These "official" figures exclude those who've given up looking for non-existent jobs altogether!

Older workers are among the hardest hit. Raising the retirement age has meant a 16% year-on-year increase in unemployment among workers over 50.

Racism Spawns Joblessness

Like all capitalist societies, France enforces racism. Here the targets are Arab and black immigrants from Africa, and their French-born descendants. In 2005, the Natixis bank refused to promote a black employee because of his skin color. Seven years later, the courts have just ordered Natixis to pay him 47,700 euros in compensation.

This extremely rare case involves an executive. One can imagine the chances of an ordinary worker obtaining redress for racist discrimination. Consequently, it isn't surprising that the official statistical bureau, INSEE, indicated in October that the unemployment rate among African immigrants and their French-born children is three times the national average.

In a new blame-the-victim argument, Louis Maurin, founder of the supposedly-neutral Observatoire des Institute, tried to explain this away by saying certain immigrant populations have no social network that can steer them to a job.

In reality, capitalism needs racist unemployment. It acts as a brake on the wages of all workers, thus generating additional profits for the bosses. Indeed, a 2010 INSEE study shows that during the world financial and economic crisis worker income in France has practically stagnated, essentially due to unemployment.

Super-Exploitation of Immigrant Workers

Another source of super-profits is the 35,000 immigrant workers from European Union countries like Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain. A 2006 EU directive allows French bosses who hire them through temp agencies in their native countries to provide those countries' much cheaper legally-mandated benefits package.

In theory, French bosses still have to pay them France's minimum wage, 1,400 euros a month. In reality, there are only 31 gendarmes to enforce the law in all of France. Unions have discovered cases of workers paid only 600 euros (US$774) a month for working 6- and 7-day weeks.

The 2010 INSEE study also reports that since 2007 a growing number of jobs are limited to a few hours a week. Young people under 25 are especially forced to take these jobs. Consequently, they only work 43% of the number of hours worked by everyone else. They remain economically dependent on their parents, increasing the stress on working-class households. And since retirement pensions are pegged to hours worked, they will only qualify for a marked-down pension.

But the Socialist government has already announced it will reduce future pensions for the 40,000 private-sector teachers by an average of 100 euros (US$130) a month. This is a first step to cutting future pensions for the 712,000 public-sector teachers and eventually for all workers.

All this has workers justifiably angry, so the Socialist government is pretending to act. Recently it's created jobs for the future aimed at young people who are virtually totally unskilled, and promises another 100,000 jobs by the end of 2013. Even if true, it won't change much when over five million people are looking for a job.

Even worse is establishment of a special work contract for young people, entailing less job security, lower wages, lower benefits and so on. The resulting super-exploitation of young workers adds to the brake on wages for all workers.

Now consider all the groups French bosses single out for special treatment: older workers, black and Arab workers, workers from other EU countries, private-sector workers, public-sector workers and younger workers. There's a pattern: an attack on one group always produces super-profits from that group and also ratchets down wages, benefits and conditions for everyone.

What do all those groups have in common? They're all workers. That's one of the main messages communists advance: We're united by a common class interest in destroying this capitalist system that creates unemployment and all kinds of racist discrimination. Making that unity a reality is a big step towards a communist revolution and a communist society where we all can work and share the fruits of our labor.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

All pols plan Social Security cuts

NYT, 12/19 — As part of a deal being negotiated by President Obama and Speaker John Boehner…Social Security payments might be lower in the future for millions of Americans….

The White House seemed willing to make a concession to Republicans with a switch in the formula that ensures that Social Security payments keep up with the pace of inflation….

Because the payment reductions would accumulate over time, AARP and other groups argue that they would hit the oldest Americans disproportionately hard. They might also unduly burden women, who tend to live longer than men, and the lowest-income older people, who are the most dependent on Social Security….

U.S. helps Saudis aid vile dictators

NYT, 12/25 — At present, the Bahraini [government]….commits widespread human rights violations….Human rights defenders are languishing in prison….

Going out on the street, carrying nothing but a flag and calling for democracy could cost you your life here….Giving a speech about human rights and democracy can lead to life imprisonment….

But despite all these sacrifices, the struggle…seems hopeless because Bahrain's rulers have powerful allies, including Saudi Arabia and the United States.

For Bahrainis, there doesn't seem to be much of a difference between the Saudis and Americans. Both are supporting the Khalifa regime to preserve their own interests, even if it costs the lives and rights of the people of Bahrain.

The United States speaks about supporting human rights and democracy, but while the Saudis send troops to aid the Khalifa government, America is sending arms….

Bahrain….is also home to the headquarters of the United States Navy's Fifth Fleet, which patrols regional shipping lanes [and] assists with missions in Iraq and Afghanistan….

'Race,' gender and class can kill you

NYT, 12/18 — Ottawa — A…farmer managed to murder 49 women before his arrest in 2002, largely because of "systemic bias by the police against the victims,….mainly members of Canadian aboriginal groups, and most were prostitutes….

The police were indifferent largely because of the women's social status and 'race….' "They were poor, they were aboriginal…and they were not taken seriously."

'Crimes against humanity'

GW, 12/24 — To the editor: Your excellent reports on financial skullduggery…are linked by…their shared taproot in a global economic system that's accountable only to profit, and therefore radically skewed against morality and justice.

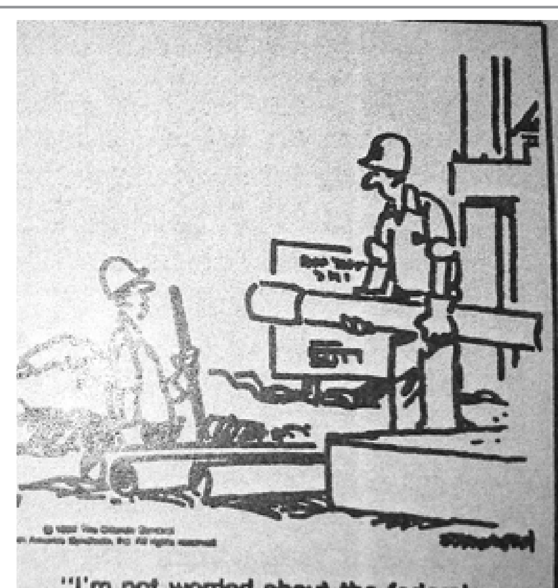
It seems to me obscene that the four biggest earners in the world economy are human trafficking, the trade in weapons and illegal drugs and pornography….The arms trade is one of the vilest manifestations of imperialism.

How is it that we not only sanction these legalized cannibals, but also continue to tolerate an economic system that cheers them on?

Like all capitalists, China's cheat

NYT, 12/26 — These have been especially nerve-racking times for Chinese officials who cheat, steal and bribe. Since [a] local bureaucrat, Lei Zhengfu, became an unwilling celebrity here, a succession of others have been publicly exposed….Most have been removed from office while party investigators sort through their bedrooms and bank accounts….

Highlights include a deputy district official in Shanxi Province who fathered 10 children with four wives; a prefecture chief from Yunnan with an opium habit who managed to accumulate 23 homes, including six in Australia; and a Hunan bureaucrat with $19 million in unexplained assets….



"I'm not worried about the federal deficit. I have every confidence in our leaders' ability to find new ways to get more money from us."

Today's economy bleak for young

NYT, 12/19 — "I'd like to be able to support myself. That's my only goal."

Across the [U.S.], tens of thousands of underemployed and jobless young people, many with college credits or work histories, are struggling to house themselves in the wake of the recession, which has left workers between the ages of 18 and 24 with the highest unemployment rate of all adults.

Those who can move back home with their parents — the so-called boomerang set — are the lucky ones….

Young adults are the new face of a national homeless population….They tend to shy away from ordinary shelters out of fear of being victimized by an older, chronically homeless population….

Those who provide services to the poor in many cities say the economic recovery has not relieved the problem. "Years ago you didn't see what looked like people of college age sitting and waiting to talk to a crisis worker because they are homeless on the street."

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Lessons for Today

THE FASCIST BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The FBI has served the U.S. ruling class as a national fascist police force ever since its inception in 1908. Its use as a tool of political repression reached its height in the Counterintelligence Program (COINTEL) in the 1960s and 1970s, although Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Nixon and Kennedy all made use of FBI surveillance activities. Although the Senator Church Committee supposedly tried to rein in COINTEL, its tactics have continued to this day.

In the late 1960s, fascist-in-chief FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered his agents to "expose, disrupt, misdirect or otherwise discredit" many militant, left-wing, anti-war, antiracist and communist groups, including the Progressive Labor Party. In a letter dated July 5, 1968, Hoover told all his special COINTEL agents that, "There is a definite hostility among SDS [Students for A Democratic Society] and other New Left groups towards…the Progressive Labor Party. This hostility should be exploited wherever possible" (Letter to SAC, Albany and all Field Offices re: Counterintelligence Program, # 100-449698).

Among other attacks against PLP, the FBI forged a racist leaflet, attributed to PLP, and sent it to a black nationalist group in Los Angeles attempting to provoke the latter into violently assaulting the Party. It also circulated forged internal bulletins designed to foment dissension within the PLP leadership and membership. The goal was to "increase factionalism, cause disruption and win defections."

There is every reason to believe that the FBI is continuing these anti-communist tactics today.

Hoover's letter further ordered "instigating or taking advantage of personal conflicts…existing between New Left leaders; creating impressions that certain New Left leaders are informants for the Bureau; use of articles from student newspapers and/or the 'underground press' to show the depravity of New Left leaders and members…[and] advocation of the use of narcotics and free sex…to send to university officials…and parents of students who are active in New Left matters." Such letters could be signed "A Concerned Alumni" or "A Concerned Taxpayer."

According to attorney Brian Glick's book "War at Home," the FBI's COINTEL's four main methods included:

> *1. Infiltration:…Not merely spy on political activists…[but] discredit and disrupt….to undermine trust and scare off potential supporters.*
>
> *2. Psychological warfare:….myriad 'dirty tricks'… Plant false media stories and publish bogus leaflets and other publications in the name of targeted groups….Forge correspondence, send anonymous letters and make anonymous telephone calls….Set up pseudo movement groups run by government agents, and manipulate or strong-arm parents, employers, landlords, school officials and others to cause trouble for activists.*
>
> *3. Legal harassment:….Abuse the legal system to harass dissidents and make them appear to be criminals….[Law officers give] perjured testimony and present fabricated evidence as a pretext for false arrests and wrongful imprisonment….*
>
> *4. Illegal force:...Conspire with local police departments…to conduct illegal break-ins…to search dissidents' homes; and commit vandalism, assaults, beatings and assassinations….*

Assassinations of Black Panther Party Members

The racist FBI also conspired with police departments of many cities (San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Philadelphia, Chicago) to encourage repeated raids on Black Panther homes — often with little or no evidence of violations of laws — which resulted directly in the racist police killing of many members of the Black Panther Party, most notably Chicago Chairman Fred Hampton on December 4, 1969.

To eliminate antiracist black leaders, they targeted specific individuals, accusing them of crimes they did not commit, suppressing exculpatory evidence that would've proved their innocence and falsely incarcerating them. Black Panther leader Elmer Pratt was imprisoned for 27 years until a California Superior Court vacated his murder conviction. An FBI agent testified he believed Pratt had been framed because both the FBI and the Los Angeles Police Department knew he had been out of the area at the time of the murder (CNN, 11/18/2010).

In another instance in San Diego, the FBI financed, armed and controlled an extreme right-wing group of former Minutemen, transforming it into a group called the Secret Army Organization which targeted groups, activists, and leaders involved in the Anti-War Movement for both intimidation and violent acts (Noam Chomsky, "Triumphs of Democracy").

The Church Committee reported that FBI tactics included, "anonymous attempts to break up marriages, disrupt meetings, ostracize persons from their professions and provoke target groups into rivalries that might result in deaths." Further, in a memo dated July 3, 1968, Hoover directed COINTEL head W. C. Sullivan to, "Be alert for opportunities to confuse and disrupt New Left activities by misinformation. For example, when events are planned, notification that the event has been canceled or postponed could be sent to various individuals."

Massive 'Sophisticated Vigilante Operation'

"Between 1965 and 1975, the FBI opened more than 500,000 intelligence files on more than one million Americans" in a "sophisticated vigilante operation' against anti-war, antiracist and left-wing organizations." These included extensive files on Albert Einstein and Martin Luther King, Jr., among others.

In that decade, the FBI employed 5,000 secret undercover informers in Chicago alone, costing $2.5 million (David Kaplan, California's Center for Investigative Reporting).

Actually COINTEL "coincided with a broader federal effort to prepare military responses for urban riots, and began increased collaboration between the FBI, CIA, National Security Agency and the Department of Defense"(*Enemies: A History of the FBI*, Tim Weiner, 2012).

Weiner revealed how widespread this program was:

> *Some 1,500 army intelligence officers in civilian clothing undertook the surveillance of some 100,000 American citizens. Army intelligence shared all their reports over the next three years [1967-1970].*

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SMASH SEXIST ASSAULTS ON WOMEN

India: Youth and Workers Rage in Protest



Millions of students and workers protest all over India against the gang rape of a 23-year-old student, who has come to symbolize the systematic violence against women. The police thugs fight protesters with batons, barricades, guns, arrests, tear gas, and water cannons.

All those outraged about the young woman — who was gang-raped, tossed off of the bus, and then left for dead — need to join PLP in order to destroy sexism and the brutality that it engenders. We point out this struggle isn't just about revealing the failure of the world's largest "democracy," but that this is a consequence of sexism, an ideology that capitalism needs in order to preserve its profits and stranglehold on the world. PLP pushes for the necessity of armed struggle in order to defeat capitalism. The need to struggle against sexism is at the forefront of the revolutionary struggle for communism.✪